United Nations A/70/716

General Assembly

Distr.: General
4 February 2016

Original: English

Seventieth session
Agenda item 140
Joint Inspection Unit

Report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2015

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The present note was prepared pursuant to paragraph 17 of General Assembly resolution 65/270, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), to expedite the implementation of that resolution, including through the expected provision of support to the Joint Inspection Unit by the secretariats of the participating organizations in the preparation of its reports, notes and confidential letters, and through the consideration of and action on the recommendations of the Unit in the light of pertinent resolutions of the Assembly, and to report to the Assembly on an annual basis on the results achieved.

2. In accordance with the statute of the Unit, the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB and through the secretariat of CEB, performs functions that support the work of the Unit, mainly in the appointment of inspectors and the preparation of reports that concern more than one organization.

3. In 2015, before the conclusion of the terms of four inspectors, the Secretary-General, in consultation with members of CEB and in accordance with procedures set out in chapter 2, article 3, of the statute of the Unit, reviewed the qualifications of inspectors proposed to fill vacancies occurring in 2016. Those consultations contributed to the appointment by the General Assembly of four new inspectors.

4. The Secretary-General also provides substantive support to the Unit during and after the preparation of reports on issues of system-wide concern. It has become a regular practice for the Unit to include the secretariat of CEB in its consultations during the planning stages of such reports. Once a report on an issue of a system-wide nature has been finalized, and in accordance with the Unit's mandate, the secretariat circulates it to United Nations system organizations that are members of the Unit. The secretariat requests the organizations to make comments on the final version of the report, including on the methodology used by the Unit during its preparation and the content and value of the recommendations made therein. Although each organization addresses the recommendations within the framework of its governing bodies, the comments, which are collated and issued as United

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Nations documents under cover of a note by the Secretary-General, reflect the overall consensus of the United Nations system. During this process, and as a matter of normal practice, the secretariat requests organizations to respond within the deadline provided in order to produce the comments of the Secretary-General and those of CEB members within the mandated time frame.

5. In addition to circulating and commenting on reports of the Unit on issues of system-wide concern, the CEB secretariat continues to work closely with the Unit on the preparation of its annual programme of work. It provides substantive input regarding specific proposals and facilitates the process as requested by the secretariat of the Unit.

6. The secretariats of CEB and the Unit continue to engage in a dialogue that ensures a smooth report preparation process as the Unit maintains its focus on issues of a system-wide nature. In 2015, for example, the High-level Committee on Management, through its Procurement Network, provided input into the preparation of the Unit's report on contract management.

7. The Secretary-General remains committed to maintaining a close working relationship with the Unit and encourages all organizations to respond in a timely manner and in a spirit of cooperation to its requests.